

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
Shepard Building
255 Westminster Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02903-3400

Deborah A. Gist
Commissioner

April 14, 2011

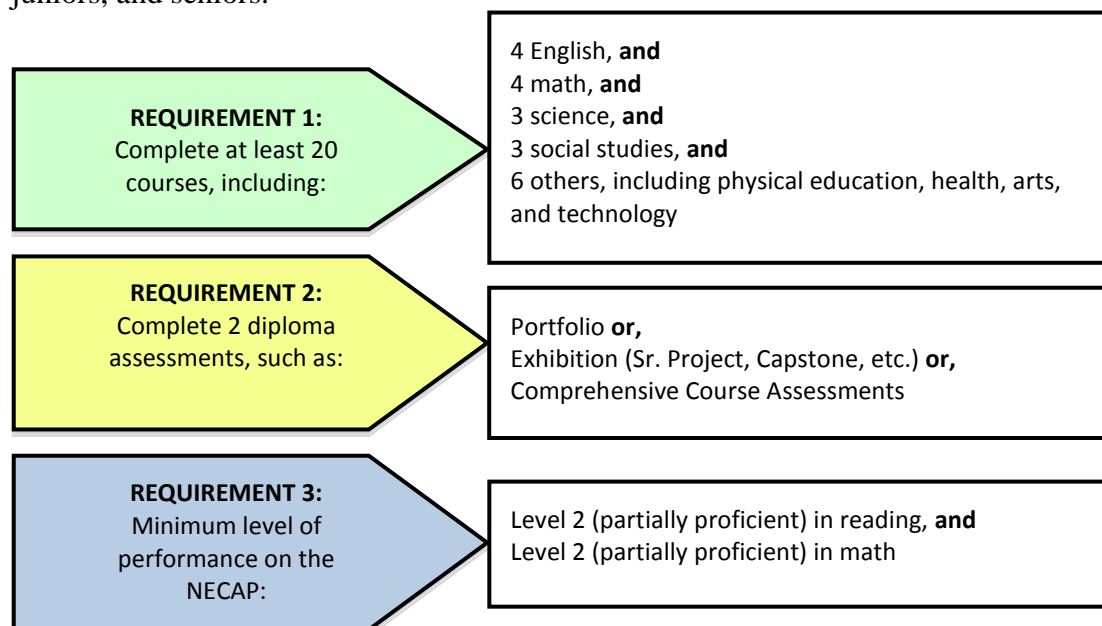
Dear Families of High-School Sophomores, Juniors, and Seniors,

I am writing to explain the graduation requirements for current high-school sophomores, juniors, and seniors (Classes of 2012, 2013, and 2014). Although you may have heard about changes to high-school graduation requirements, the requirements for the graduating classes of 2011, 2012, and 2013 **have not** changed. Your child is responsible for meeting these graduation requirements as well as those additional requirements of his or her school. These requirements, though challenging, will ensure that all Rhode Island students graduate ready for success in postsecondary education and careers.

In this letter, I will address three important topics: (1) the minimum graduation requirements, (2) the responsibilities of your child's school, and (3) the steps you can take to help ensure your child's success.

The Graduation Requirements for the Classes of 2011, 2012, and 2013

Across Rhode Island, there are three major graduation requirements for the current sophomores, juniors, and seniors.



Sophomores, juniors, and seniors who do not reach Level 2 (partially proficient) on the state assessments in reading and math **will still be eligible** for a diploma; however, students scoring at Level 1 will have to show their readiness to graduate in a different way.

Telephone (401) 222-4600 **Fax** (401) 222-6178 **TTY** 800-745-5555 **Voice** 800-745-6575

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Your local school district may have more requirements that must be completed in order to earn a diploma. Contact your school for more information about the different things that are required to show readiness to graduate.

The Responsibilities of Your Child's School

Your child's school is responsible for providing you and your child with clear information about the graduation requirements. In addition, the school is responsible for providing academic supports and is required to contact you if your child is falling behind or is not on track to graduate.

Three Things Families Can Do Today

Families share responsibility for their child's success. There are several important steps you can take immediately.

First, review your child's grades and most recent state test (NECAP) results that you received earlier this year. This will provide you with enough information to know if your child is on track to graduate or falling behind.

Second, if your child scored at Level 1 (substantially below proficient in reading or math), contact your child's school counselor to discuss his or her academic needs.

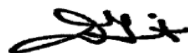
Third, talk with your child about the graduation requirements. Make sure that you both understand the requirements and that you both know whether your child is on track to graduate.

It is important that you stay in regular contact with your child's school to keep track of his or her performance.

If you have questions about your school's graduation requirements, please contact your child's principal. The graduation requirements may also be posted on the district or school Web site. You can visit the R.I. Department of Education Web site (www.ride.ri.gov/HighSchoolReform/) to read more about the state graduation requirements.

Your school has graduation policies that maintain high expectations for all students; those requirements have not changed for the Classes of 2011, 2012, and 2013. I am confident that, working together, our students will graduate ready for success in college, careers, and life.

Sincerely,



Deborah A. Gist
Commissioner